

**Avista Corporation**  
1411 East Mission P.O. Box 3727  
Spokane, Washington 99220-3727  
Telephone 509-489-0500  
Toll Free 800-727-9170



July 17, 2001

State of Idaho  
Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Statehouse  
Boise, ID 83720

Attention: Ms. Jean Jewell, Secretary

Tariff I.P.U.C No. 28, Electric Service Advice No. 01-08-E  
Application to Implement PCA Surcharge

Enclosed for filing with the Commission is an original and seven copies of the following tariff sheet (Schedule 66 – Temporary Power Cost Adjustment):

Sixth Revision Sheet 66 canceling Fifth Revision Sheet 66

This revised tariff sheet sets forth the rates to recover extraordinary power costs in excess of costs presently included in rates. The proposed surcharge results in a 14.7% increase over present rates to all classes of retail customers. The monthly increase for an average residential customer using 1,000 KWH per month would be \$7.55. The Company requests that the proposed tariff become effective on September 15, 2001, and remain in effect for a period of 27 months. The rates set forth in the tariff would be subject to adjustment by the Commission based on a periodic review of the Company's actual power supply costs.

Also enclosed is an Application that provides information supporting the proposed tariff. Workpapers supporting the attachments to the Application will be mailed to all parties on or before July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Company will file testimony and exhibits further supporting the proposed surcharge during the first week of August.

Also enclosed is a Certificate of Service and Notice of Tariff Change that will be posted in the Company's offices. The Company will begin mailing a notice of the proposed surcharge to all customers no later than July 20, 2001. All customers will receive the notice by mid-August.

Please direct any questions regarding this filing to Don Falkner at 509-495-4326 or Brian Hirschhorn at (509) 495-4723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas D. Dukich". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas D. Dukich  
Director, Rates & Tariff Administration

Enc.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that I have served Avista Corporation's filing related to a PCA Surcharge in retail electric rates, by mailing a copy via overnight mail thereof, postage prepaid to the following:

Ms. Jean Jewell, Secretary  
Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
472 West Washington Street  
P. O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Bill Nicholson  
Potlatch Corporation  
244 California Street  
Suite 610  
San Francisco, California 94111

Conley Ward  
Givens Pursley, LLP  
277 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
P. O. Box 2720  
Boise, Idaho 83701

Dated at Spokane, Washington this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2001.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean T. Osterberg  
Rates Coordinator

AVISTA CORPORATION  
d/b/a Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 66

TEMPORARY POWER COST ADJUSTMENT - IDAHO

APPLICABLE:

To Customers in the State of Idaho where the Company has electric service available. This Power Cost Adjustment shall be applicable to all retail customers for charges for electric energy sold and to the flat rate charges for Company-owned or Customer-owned Street Lighting and Area Lighting Service. This Rate Adjustment is designed to recover or rebate a portion of the difference between actual and allowed net power supply costs.

MONTHLY RATE:

The energy charges of the individual rate schedules are to be increased by the following amounts:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Schedule 1        |                |
| 0 – 600 kwhs      | 0.939¢ per kwh |
| over 600 kwhs     | 1.092¢ per kwh |
| Schedules 11 & 12 | 1.391¢ per kwh |
| Schedules 21 & 22 | 1.011¢ per kwh |
| Schedules 25      | 0.607¢ per kwh |
| Schedules 31 & 32 | 0.888¢ per kwh |

Flat rate charges for Company-owned or Customer-owned Street Lighting and Area Lighting Service are to be increased (decreased) by the following percentage:

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Schedules 41-49 | 19.37% |
|-----------------|--------|

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The rates set forth under this Schedule are subject to periodic review and adjustment by the IPUC based on the actual balance of deferred power costs.

Service under this schedule is subject to the Rules and Regulations contained in this tariff.

The above Rate is subject to increases as set forth in Tax Adjustment Schedule 58.

Issued July 17, 2001

Effective September 15, 2001

Issued by Avista Utilities

By

Thomas D. Dukich, Director of Rates & Regulatory Affairs



AVISTA CORPORATION  
d/b/a Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 66

TEMPORARY POWER COST ADJUSTMENT - IDAHO

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|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Schedule 1           |                       |
| <u>0 – 600 kwhs</u>  | <u>0.939¢ per kwh</u> |
| <u>over 600 kwhs</u> | <u>1.092¢ per kwh</u> |
| Schedules 11 & 12    | <u>1.391¢ per kwh</u> |
| Schedules 21 & 22    | <u>1.011¢ per kwh</u> |
| Schedules 25         | <u>0.607¢ per kwh</u> |
| Schedules 31 & 32    | <u>0.888¢ per kwh</u> |

Flat rate charges for Company-owned or Customer-owned Street Lighting and Area Lighting Service are to be increased (decreased) by the following percentage:

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Schedules 41-49 | <u>19.37%</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The rates set forth under this Schedule are subject to periodic review and adjustment by the IPUC based on the actual balance of deferred power costs.

Service under this schedule is subject to the Rules and Regulations contained in this tariff.

The above Rate is subject to increases as set forth in Tax Adjustment Schedule 58.

Issued July 17, 2001

Effective September 15, 2001

Issued by Avista Utilities  
By

Thomas D. Dukich, Director of Rates & Regulatory Affairs

AVISTA CORPORATION  
d/b/a Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 66

TEMPORARY POWER COST ADJUSTMENT - IDAHO

APPLICABLE:

To Customers in the State of Idaho where the Company has electric service available. This Power Cost Adjustment shall be applicable to all retail customers for charges for electric energy sold and to the flat rate charges for Company-owned or Customer-owned Street Lighting and Area Lighting Service. This Rate Adjustment is designed to recover or rebate a portion of the difference between actual and allowed net power supply costs.

MONTHLY RATE:

The energy charges of the individual rate schedules are to be increased (decreased) by the following amounts:

|                   |                            |                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
|                   | <del>Effective date</del>  | <del>2/1/01</del>  |
|                   | <del>Expiration date</del> | <del>1/31/02</del> |
| Schedule 1        |                            | <del>0.245¢</del>  |
| Schedules 11 & 12 |                            | <del>0.305¢</del>  |
| Schedules 21 & 22 |                            | <del>0.223¢</del>  |
| Schedules 25      |                            | <del>0.170¢</del>  |
| Schedules 31 & 32 |                            | <del>0.181¢</del>  |

Flat rate charges for Company-owned or Customer-owned Street Lighting and Area Lighting Service are to be increased (decreased) by the following percentages:

|                 |                            |                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
|                 | <del>Effective date</del>  | <del>2/1/01</del>  |
|                 | <del>Expiration date</del> | <del>1/31/02</del> |
| Schedules 41-49 |                            | <del>4.763%</del>  |

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Service under this schedule is subject to the Rules and Regulations contained in this tariff.

The above Rate is subject to increases as set forth in Tax Adjustment Schedule 58.

Issued June 27, 2001

Effective August 1, 2001

Issued by Avista Utilities

By

Thomas D. Dukich

, Director of Rates & Regulatory Affairs

*Thomas D. Dukich*

AVISTA CORPORATION  
DBA AVISTA UTILITIES

NOTICE OF TARIFF CHANGE  
(Electric Service Only)  
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Notice is hereby given that the "Sheet" listed below of Tariff I.P.U.C. No. 28, covering electric service, has been filed with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) at Boise, Idaho:

Sixth Revision Sheet 66 – Temporary Power Cost Adjustment

This revised tariff sheet sets forth proposed surcharge rates to recover extraordinary power costs to serve customers above the level of costs presently included in rates. These extraordinary costs are the result of poor streamflow conditions causing lower than normal hydro generation, and high purchased power costs. If approved by the IPUC, the proposed surcharge would result in an increase of 14.7% for all classes of customers for a 27-month period. The proposed monthly increase for an average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month would be \$7.55. The proposed surcharge is requested to become effective September 15, 2001.

Copies of the proposed tariff change are available for inspection in the Company's offices and the office of the IPUC.

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July 17, 2001

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Thomas D. Dukich  
Director, Rates and Tariff Administration  
1411 E. Mission Avenue  
P. O. Box 3727  
Spokane, Washington 99220  
Phone: (509) 495-4724, Fax: (509) 495-8058

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF AVISTA CORPORATION FOR AUTHORITY ) CASE NO. AVU-E-01-  
TO IMPLEMENT A POWER COST ADJUSTMENT )  
(PCA) SURCHARGE )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

I. INTRODUCTION

Avista Corporation doing business as Avista Utilities (hereinafter Avista or Company), at 1411 East Mission Avenue, Spokane, Washington, respectfully petitions the Commission for an order approving an additional Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) surcharge of 14.7% effective September 15, 2001. As the Company will explain in this Application, the combination of low hydroelectric conditions and unprecedented high wholesale market prices occurring at the same time has caused the need for prompt rate relief in order to enable it to obtain financing necessary to support the ongoing operations of the Company. Hydroelectric conditions for 2001 have continued to deteriorate to the lowest level in the 73 years of record.

The Company has not yet been able to obtain construction financing for the Coyote Springs II project, because lenders are concerned about the size of the deferral balances, and the absence of rate relief necessary to deal with the deferred cost balances in a timely manner. Current estimates

1 show that if prompt rate relief is not granted, the Company will not be able to complete anticipated  
2 financings and will not be able to meet certain debt covenants by the end of this year. As a result,  
3 the Company would not be able to borrow under its line of credit. With the requested surcharge,  
4 and recovery of the deferral balances, under current plans the Company would be able to continue  
5 to access capital to meet its obligations.

6 Communications in reference to this Application should be addressed to:

7 Thomas D. Dukich  
8 Director, Rates and Tariff Administration  
9 Avista Corporation  
10 1411 E. Mission Avenue  
11 Spokane, Washington 99220  
12 Phone: (509) 495-4724  
13 Fax: (509) 495-8058  
14

David J. Meyer  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
Avista Corporation  
1411 E. Mission Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99220  
Phone: (509) 495-4316  
Fax: (509) 495-4361

## 16 II. SURCHARGE REQUEST

17 Through this filing the Company is requesting that the Commission approve an additional  
18 PCA surcharge increase in rates for Avista's Idaho electric customers of 14.7% effective September  
19 15, 2001. The present tariff Schedule 66-Temporary Power Cost Adjustment includes a surcharge  
20 of \$5.7 million, or approximately 4.8%, which is due to expire January 31, 2002. In this filing, the  
21 Company is proposing an incremental increase of 14.7%, resulting in a total surcharge in effect  
22 under Schedule 66 of 19.4%.

23 The Company is proposing that the PCA surcharge on Schedule 66 remain in place until  
24 December 31, 2003. During the proposed surcharge period, the Company may propose to modify  
25 the surcharge amount and the duration of the surcharge rate, if needed, in order to reflect changed  
26 conditions.

1 The Company recognizes that the proposed total surcharge of 19.4% would exceed the 10%  
2 limit recently approved by the Commission in Case No. AVU-E-01-1. In that Case, however, the  
3 Commission approved the Company's request to use the 10% of base revenues as a guide rather than  
4 a hard and fast rule. At page 13 of the Commission's Order No. 28775, dated July 12, 2001,  
5 approving modifications to the PCA mechanism it states:

6 "As agreed to by the Company and Staff, the limit, not the trigger, on surcharges or rebates  
7 will be raised to \$12 million or about 10% of base revenues. Rather than a hard and fast  
8 rule, the Company, if circumstances arise, may request and seek to justify a different  
9 amount."  
10

11 Thus, the PCA mechanism allows the Company to request a different amount, depending  
12 on the circumstances. We believe the record-low hydroelectric generation that has caused the  
13 Company to make purchases in the short-term wholesale market at unprecedented high prices, and  
14 the resulting financial impact on the Company, warrants the higher PCA surcharge being proposed  
15 at this time.

16 This Application provides a summary explanation of the Company's need for rate relief and  
17 the conditions that led to that need. Avista is filing this Application prior to completing its  
18 testimony in order to start the flow of information between parties as soon as possible. The  
19 Company plans to file written testimony on August 2, 2001 that will provide additional details  
20 related to its request for rate relief.

21 The Company proposes the following procedural schedule related to processing its request  
22 for a PCA surcharge:

|    |                                |                 |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 23 | Avista Application Filed       | July 18, 2001   |
| 24 | Avista Prefiled Testimony      | August 2, 2001  |
| 25 | Staff and Intervenor Testimony | August 22, 2001 |
| 26 | Avista Rebuttal Testimony      | August 28, 2001 |



1 at December 31, 2001, \$72 million at the end of 2002, and \$88 million at the end of 2003, as shown  
2 on the chart on page 1 of Attachment 1.

3 A major portion of the increase in the deferral balance is driven by a continued deterioration  
4 in hydroelectric generation. Actual generation through June 2001 together with estimates for the  
5 remainder of the year, show that hydroelectric generation in 2001 for Avista will be the lowest in  
6 the 73 years of record. The chart on page 2 of Attachment 1 shows the monthly deviation from the  
7 normal level of hydroelectric generation for 2001. The chart also shows the expected generation  
8 for Avista under "critical water" conditions as determined by the Northwest Power Pool hydro  
9 regulation study (i.e., the worst water conditions on record). Under "critical water" conditions the  
10 annual reduction in generation is expected to be approximately 150 aMW. The generation for 2001  
11 is currently estimated to be 194 aMW below normal, which is well below the 150 aMW reduction  
12 expected under "critical water" conditions. Page 3 of Attachment 1 includes a chart showing the  
13 variance in Avista's system hydroelectric generation from normal for each calendar year from 1929  
14 through 2001, and illustrates that generation for 2001 is the lowest on record.

15 The record low hydroelectric conditions required the Company to purchase energy in the  
16 forward short-term wholesale market to replace the lost generation and cover its energy deficiencies.

17 These purchases were made at unprecedented high wholesale market prices, and caused deferral  
18 balances to increase substantially. Page 4 of Attachment 1 shows the actual short-term electric  
19 wholesale market prices for the period August 1996 through June 2001, as reported by Dow Jones  
20 for the Mid-Columbia Firm Electric Index.

21 The loss of a record 194 aMW of hydroelectric generation during 2001 has resulted in an  
22 estimated increase in gross costs to Avista of \$290 million on a system basis, at the wholesale

1 market prices being experienced by the Company during the year. The impact on the Company in  
2 prior years from very low hydroelectric conditions ranged from \$20 million to \$30 million annually,  
3 because the wholesale market prices were significantly lower. In addition to the lower hydroelectric  
4 conditions, a proforma study for July 2000 - June 2001 from the Company's most recent general rate  
5 case (in Washington), showed the Company as a net purchaser of energy from the short-term  
6 wholesale market of approximately 90 aMW, under normal hydroelectric conditions. A comparison  
7 of the wholesale purchase prices being experienced by the Company in 2001 versus the market  
8 prices included in the last rate case results in increased costs associated with the 90 aMW of market  
9 purchases of approximately \$110 million on a system basis. The combination of the hydroelectric  
10 impacts and the market purchases for 2001 is approximately \$400 million on a system basis. This  
11 exceeds Avista's annual gross retail electric revenues on a system basis of approximately \$360  
12 million.

13 Furthermore, in the past month wholesale prices have decreased dramatically, due in large  
14 part to FERC's price mitigation order issued on June 19, 2001. The decision to implement some  
15 form of price cap on a West-wide basis was something that FERC and the Bush Administration had  
16 continually rejected until June. The substantial decline in forward market prices in the last month  
17 has reduced the value of future surplus energy on Avista's system that could be used to offset the  
18 increased power costs experienced by the Company in 2001.

19 The Company has taken a number of measures to mitigate the increased power costs, such  
20 as increased operation of its thermal resources, locking in fixed-price purchases in the prior year,  
21 aggressively pursuing conservation and load curtailment programs, and implementing a hiring freeze  
22 and cutting budgets. However, the costs associated with the hydroelectric conditions and wholesale

1 market prices (costs beyond the Company's control) have overwhelmed the benefits these measures  
2 have provided.

#### 4 IV. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5 In addition to the cash required to support power cost deferrals, Avista also has cash needs  
6 for funding gas deferrals, for normal construction and capital improvements, for the completion of  
7 construction of Coyote Springs II and a number of small generation projects, to fund conservation  
8 programs, and to repay maturing securities. Page 1 of Attachment 2 includes a chart showing total  
9 electric and natural gas deferral balances for both the Washington and Idaho jurisdictions for each  
10 month of 2001. The chart includes actual balances through June 2001 and estimates for July -  
11 December 2001. The chart shows total electric and natural gas deferral balances of \$319 million  
12 at December 31, 2001. Current estimates show that without a surcharge, utility financing needs will  
13 total \$434 million from now until the end of 2002, primarily to fund energy costs, required utility  
14 construction (including generation projects), and debt and preferred stock maturities.

15 Investor concerns surrounding cash flows, deferral balances and the ability to recover costs  
16 in a timely manner have already had an impact on the Company's financings. In April of this year,  
17 the Company issued \$400 million of Senior Unsecured Notes. As a result of these investor  
18 concerns, the notes were issued at a spread over Treasuries of nearly 500 basis points, which is  
19 significantly higher than the Company has ever paid before, and much higher than other  
20 comparably-rated securities issued during the same time period. The notes also included terms and  
21 ongoing covenants that had not been required of the Company in the past and that limit the  
22 Company's financing flexibility. In addition, when the Company renegotiated its corporate short-

1 term credit facility in May 2001, a new fixed charge coverage ratio covenant was required by the  
2 banks in order to close the transaction. While such coverage ratio tests are not unusual, they were  
3 imposed on Avista for the first time due to the Company's weakened financial position.

4 The Company expected that the proceeds of the \$400 million note offering, the construction  
5 financing for Coyote Springs II (\$93 million in 2001), and the issuance of common stock (\$67  
6 million) in the third quarter of 2001 would cover the Company's cash needs through the middle of  
7 2002. However, as previously discussed, changes that have occurred since the notes were issued  
8 have had a significant impact on the Company's ability to complete planned financings. As of mid-  
9 July, the entire proceeds of the note offering had been used and the Company expects to begin  
10 borrowing under its line of credit in late July. The Company had not expected to need to use the  
11 line of credit at all in 2001. Projected ratios under the bank line new covenants are shown on page  
12 2 of Attachment 2. Columns C and D of the projections show that without the proceeds from the  
13 anticipated sale of common stock and the Coyote Springs II construction loan, the Company will  
14 be in violation of covenants under the line of credit by September 30 of this year, and would  
15 continue to be in violation throughout 2002. Not meeting the covenant would be an event of default  
16 under the current credit agreement. In this event, the Company would be required to repay any  
17 outstanding borrowings under the line of credit and would be precluded from borrowing any  
18 additional amounts to the future. This would eliminate a critical external source of liquidity the  
19 Company needs to fund expenditures on a current basis. Columns G and H show the same ratios  
20 if we receive a surcharge that would provide opportunity to complete the financings under our  
21 current plan. As can be seen, the Company would not be in violation of covenants in that case. It  
22 is critical to note that the Company will not be able to complete any financings absent substantial

1 progress toward recovery of the deferral balances, including an immediate increase in rates.

2 The corporate credit facility covenants were based on projections provided in early May  
3 2001 which showed that the deferral balances would be virtually eliminated by February 2003.  
4 Under that plan (which assumed completion of the Coyote Springs II financing and the issuance of  
5 common stock in 2001), the Company was able to meet all covenants. As previously outlined, over  
6 the past few weeks, the outlook has changed dramatically. Deferral balances not only are continuing  
7 to grow but are not expected to decline over the next 18 months. These latest projections were  
8 provided to banks who had previously received credit approval to underwrite the Coyote Springs  
9 II construction financing. Since the projections have changed so dramatically, the banks have told  
10 Avista that they will not complete the construction financing of Coyote Springs II based on the  
11 Company's current credit risk. In a letter the Company received from a bank on July 13, 2001 it  
12 stated:

13 "Specifically, the Avista corporate credit risk must be less than it is today if you are  
14 to receive any significant degree of financial leverage on the CS2 project. Regulatory  
15 certainty regarding rate increases and the full recovery of electric and gas deferrals is  
16 an absolute prerequisite to any financing."  
17

18 Absent the construction financing for Coyote Springs II, the Company would need to borrow  
19 significant amounts under the corporate credit facility to finance Coyote Springs II. However, based  
20 on current projections for the bank line covenants, without the construction financing for Coyote  
21 Springs II the Company would be precluded from borrowing under the credit facility since it would  
22 not meet the coverage tests. Given the latest projections, the Company will not be able to obtain  
23 financing without the assurance of near-term cash recovery of deferred energy costs.

24 The Company had also planned to sell common stock this fall to provide a portion of the

1 external funds needed. Financial advisors have told the Company that projections showing that  
2 Avista may be unable to borrow under its bank credit line will make it very difficult, if not  
3 impossible, to sell common stock at a reasonable price and in the time period the Company had  
4 planned.

5 The Company currently has an investment grade credit rating (BBB with a negative outlook  
6 for its senior unsecured debt). Page 3 of Attachment 2 shows Avista's credit rating history for  
7 secured and unsecured debt. Page 4 of Attachment 2 shows key financial indicators that Rating  
8 Agencies look at when rating a company and compares Avista's indicators over time with the  
9 requirements for certain rating categories. As can be seen, the ratios have been deteriorating and  
10 without additional equity financing and improved cash flows from operations, projected 2001  
11 financial indicators as shown in Attachment 2, pages 4-8 are not adequate to maintain an investment  
12 grade (BBB) credit rating. Institutional investors such as pension fund managers are much less  
13 likely to purchase securities with ratings below investment grade. As a result, a drop to below  
14 investment grade would have a significant impact on the Company and its customers by causing a  
15 substantial increase in borrowing costs to finance the business. Attachment 2, pages 4-8 also show  
16 the same indicators for 2001 and 2002 with a surcharge and completion of a planned sale of  
17 common stock. Although the indicators improve, we do not immediately return to investment grade  
18 levels. It is imperative that the Company be able to obtain financing for new base load resources  
19 such as Coyote Springs II, which will be an integral part of the resources needed to serve the  
20 Company's load obligations. The Company also needs to issue common stock to move financial  
21 ratios toward a level that provides a credit rating that will allow the Company to complete financings  
22 when needed and at a reasonable cost.

1 Improving the Company's cash flow is critical to being able to generate cash flows sufficient  
2 to fund Coyote Springs II, fund current and future power purchases, and to enable the Company to  
3 sell common stock. Approval of a surcharge will not only provide needed cash flows but, just as  
4 important, will be a signal to the financial community that the Commission will continue to take  
5 prompt actions to support the financial health of the Company. Commission support and action  
6 through a surcharge is critical to enable the Company to complete financings needed for continued  
7 utility operations and to help mitigate potential reductions in credit ratings.

8 Avista has made extraordinary efforts to avoid the situation now facing the Company and  
9 its customers. Unfortunately, financial exigencies now require the Company to request an  
10 immediate surcharge. The Company has reviewed prior Commission orders regarding such requests  
11 and believes that it meets all previously articulated criteria to be granted an immediate surcharge.

12 To not grant a surcharge would clearly jeopardize the financial integrity of Avista and cause a  
13 detriment to its ratepayers.

## 14 15 **V. PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES**

16 The rates set forth under the proposed PCA Schedule 66 reflect an annual revenue surcharge  
17 amount of \$23.6 million, or 19.4%. As stated before, the present Schedule 66 includes a surcharge  
18 of \$5.7 million, or approximately 4.8%, which is due to expire January 31, 2002. The proposed  
19 incremental rate increase to customers is approximately 14.7%. In developing the surcharge of  
20 14.7% the Company attempted to achieve a balance of mitigating the overall impact to customers,  
21 while also reducing the surcharge balance to zero as quickly as possible to address the concerns of  
22 the financial community. The Company is proposing to use the deferred credit on the Company's

1 balance sheet related to the monetization of the Portland General Electric (PGE) Sale Agreement  
2 as an offset to the power cost deferral balance to reduce the overall rate impact to customers. The  
3 Company is then proposing that the remaining balance of the deferred costs be recovered by the end  
4 of 2003 through the surcharge.

5 With regard to the PGE monetization credit, the Company is currently amortizing the PGE  
6 monetization credit balance over a sixteen-year period (1999-2014) to match the original revenue  
7 stream under the PGE contract. The Company is proposing in this filing to accelerate the  
8 amortization of the PGE credit balance, beginning in October 2001, and apply the increased  
9 amortization against the deferred power cost balance, which would reduce the amount of deferred  
10 power costs that must be collected from customers through the surcharge. The Company is  
11 proposing that the amortization be increased to a level that would cause the PGE balance on Avista's  
12 balance sheet at October 1, 2001 to be fully amortized by December 31, 2002. This is one year  
13 earlier than the targeted date of December 31, 2003 to eliminate the power cost deferral balance.

14 By using the PGE credits at a faster rate than the December 31, 2003 date, the overall surcharge  
15 to customers is decreased. The accelerated amortization of the PGE balance would not improve the  
16 Company's cash flow, since these entries would be non-cash accounting entries, but would mitigate  
17 the overall impact to customers from the power cost deferrals. The accelerated amortization of the  
18 PGE balance would reduce the deferred power cost balance by \$34.6 million by December 31, 2002.

19 After reducing power cost deferrals by the accelerated amortization of the PGE balance, the  
20 Company calculated the additional surcharge (14.7%) necessary to reduce the deferred power cost  
21 balance to zero by December 31, 2003. As part of the overall proposal, the present surcharge under  
22 Schedule 66 of 4.8%, which is incorporated in the proposed Schedule 66 rates, would not expire at

1 the end of January 2002, but continue through December 31, 2003. These calculations include the  
2 actual deferral balance at June 30, 2001, and estimated deferral entries through December 2003.

3 The resulting monthly deferral balances decrease to zero by December 2003, as shown in the chart  
4 on page 1 of Attachment 3.

5 December 2003 was chosen in an effort to balance a number of competing considerations  
6 including the size of the surcharge, the duration of recovery of the deferral balance, the need to  
7 immediately improve the financial health of the Company, as well as taking into consideration the  
8 timing of the need for additional power resources. A surcharge period shorter than December 2003  
9 would improve the financial health of the Company sooner, but would result in a significantly  
10 higher surcharge rate increase. A surcharge period beyond December 2003 would extend into a  
11 period when the Company shows a need for new firm energy resources. The Company's existing  
12 200 MW purchase from TransAlta expires in December 2003, and Avista will need additional firm  
13 energy resources beginning in 2004. The costs associated with these new resources may cause an  
14 increase in retail rates, therefore, the Company is proposing a surcharge period that ends prior to  
15 2004.

16 The determination of the final revenue requirement for the surcharge utilized the standard  
17 conversion for miscellaneous revenue related expense and taxes. The conversion factors utilized  
18 were from the same calculations authorized in the Company's most recent Idaho general case,  
19 updated for actuals through December 31, 2000, and as filed with the Commission. Outside of  
20 equity deferral entries associated with the Company's small generation projects, plus the Coyote  
21 Springs II Project, which required an income tax gross-up component, only revenue related expense

1 items were used in the conversion calculation. This calculation resulted in an overall surcharge  
2 increase of 14.7%, as shown on page 2 of Attachment 3.

3 The Company recognizes that a portion of the costs included in the 27-month recovery plan  
4 (through December 2003) are projected at this time, and proposes that the surcharge rates under  
5 tariff Schedule 66 be adjusted in the future based on actual costs. The Company has included  
6 language under the proposed tariff addressing periodic review and adjustment of the rates by the  
7 Commission. As an alternative to the proposal, the Company considered proposing a surcharge to  
8 recover the actual balance of deferred costs at June 2001 of \$30 million over a 12-month period.

9 However, the result would have been a higher immediate increase in rates (20%) than the proposed  
10 14.7% increase.

11 The Company proposes to recover the surcharge amount on a uniform percentage increase  
12 basis to all general service schedules. The annual revenue surcharge by service schedule is then  
13 applied only to the energy charge(s) within each schedule. For Residential Schedule 1 the increase  
14 is proposed to be applied on a uniform percentage basis to the present energy block rates under the  
15 Schedule. As the present rates under the Schedule increase as monthly usage increases (inverted-  
16 block structure), the surcharge on a cents per KWH basis will increase for usage in the higher  
17 (usage) blocks. This proposed application will maintain the present relationship between the rates  
18 under the Schedule and continue to encourage residential customers to conserve energy. The  
19 resulting increase for a residential customer using 1,000 KWH per month would be 13.9%, or \$7.55  
20 per month. The percentage increase for a customer using 600 KWH per month would be 12.9%,  
21 or \$4.16 per month. The increase for a customer using 1,400 KWH per month would be 14.4%, or  
22 \$10.94 per month.

1 As service Schedules 11, 21, and 25 contain only a single energy-block, the application of  
2 the surcharge is more straightforward. For Pumping Service Schedules 31 and 32, the Company  
3 proposes application of the surcharge on an equal-cents per KWH basis to the two energy-block  
4 rates under the Schedule. The rates under the Schedule are presently on a declining-block basis,  
5 with an implied demand charge included in the first-block rate. For Street and Area Lighting  
6 Schedules 41-49, the proposed increase is being applied on a uniform percentage basis to the present  
7 rates under those Schedules. The calculation of the proposed rates is shown on page 3 of  
8 Attachment 3. The rates are set forth on proposed Schedule 66 – Temporary Power Cost  
9 Adjustment, to become effective on September 15, 2001.

10 The proposed accounting entries related to the accelerated amortization of the PGE balance  
11 would be to debit the PGE deferred revenue account and to credit the power cost deferral account,  
12 thereby reducing the power cost deferral balance to be recovered.

#### 13

#### 14 **VI. BPA RESIDENTIAL EXCHANGE SETTLEMENT CREDIT**

15 In its Settlement Agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Avista  
16 received rights to 90 aMW of benefits from the federal hydropower system beginning October 1,  
17 2001. The benefits related to this Settlement are to be shared among Avista's residential and small  
18 farm customers.

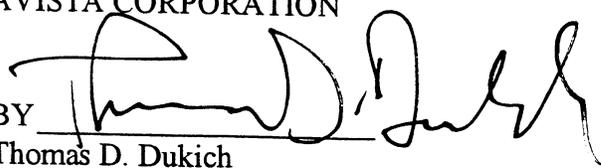
19 Avista estimates that the total benefits from the Residential Exchange Settlement will result  
20 in a rate reduction for residential and small farm customers of approximately 10% in the first year  
21 of the Exchange period which begins October 2001. Although the rate reductions to residential and  
22 small farm customers related to the Residential Exchange Settlement benefits will be handled

1 separately from the proposed PCA surcharge, the timing of the Residential Exchange credit will  
2 serve to reduce the overall rate impact to approximately 5% for residential and small farm customers  
3 from the Company's surcharge request. The Company plans to file a proposal with the Commission  
4 in August to flow the benefits from Residential Exchange Settlement through to its customers.

6 **VII. REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

7 The Company respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order approving an  
8 additional PCA surcharge increase in rates for Avista's Idaho electric customers of 14.7% effective  
9 September 15, 2001. The surcharge would provide a critical increase in cash flow immediately, as  
10 well as begin to reduce the size of the deferral balance. The Company is proposing that the  
11 surcharge remain in place until December 31, 2003. During the proposed surcharge period, the  
12 Company may propose to modify the surcharge amount and the duration of the surcharge rate, if  
13 needed, in order to reflect changed conditions. The Company also requests approval of the proposed  
14 acceleration of the amortization of the PGE credit balance to partially offset the power cost deferral  
15 balance.

17 Dated at Spokane, Washington this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2001.

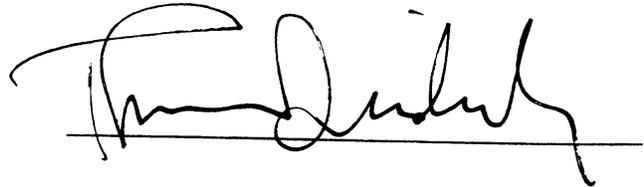
19 AVISTA CORPORATION  
20   
21 BY \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Thomas D. Dukich  
23 Director, Rates and Tariff Administration  
24  
25

1  
2 VERIFICATION  
3

4 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
5 )  
6 County of Spokane )  
7

8  
9 Thomas D. Dukich, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says: That he is the  
10 Director - Rates and Tariff Administration of Avista Corporation and makes this verification for and  
11 on behalf of said corporation, being thereto duly authorized;

12 That he has read the foregoing Application, knows the contents thereof, and believes the  
13 same to be true.  
14

15   
16  
17

18  
19 SIGNED AND SWORN to before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2001, by Thomas D. Dukich.  
20



30   
31 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of  
32 Washington, residing at Spokane.

33 Commission Expires: 8-19-03

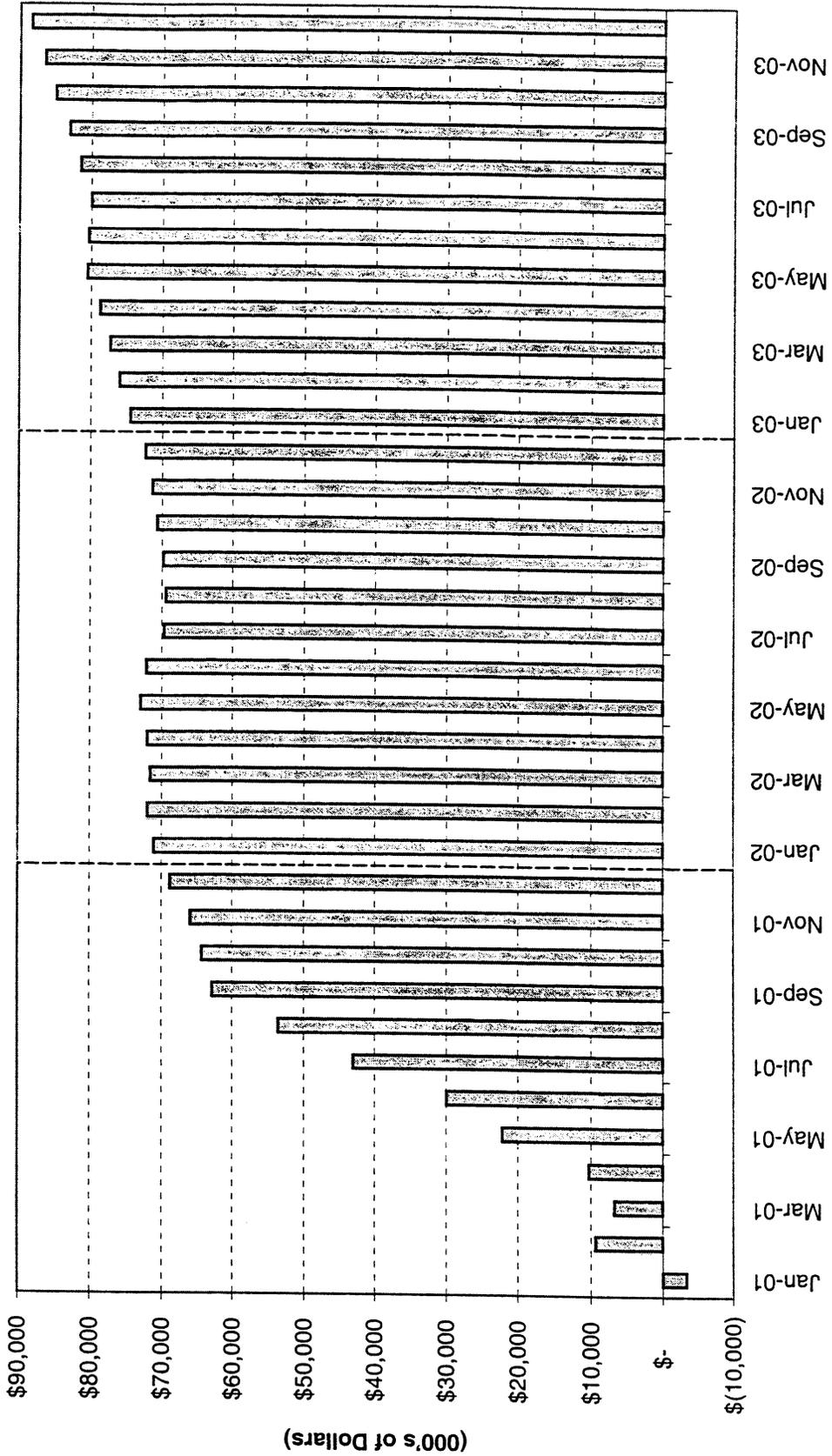
BEFORE THE  
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

CASE NO. AVU-E-01-

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

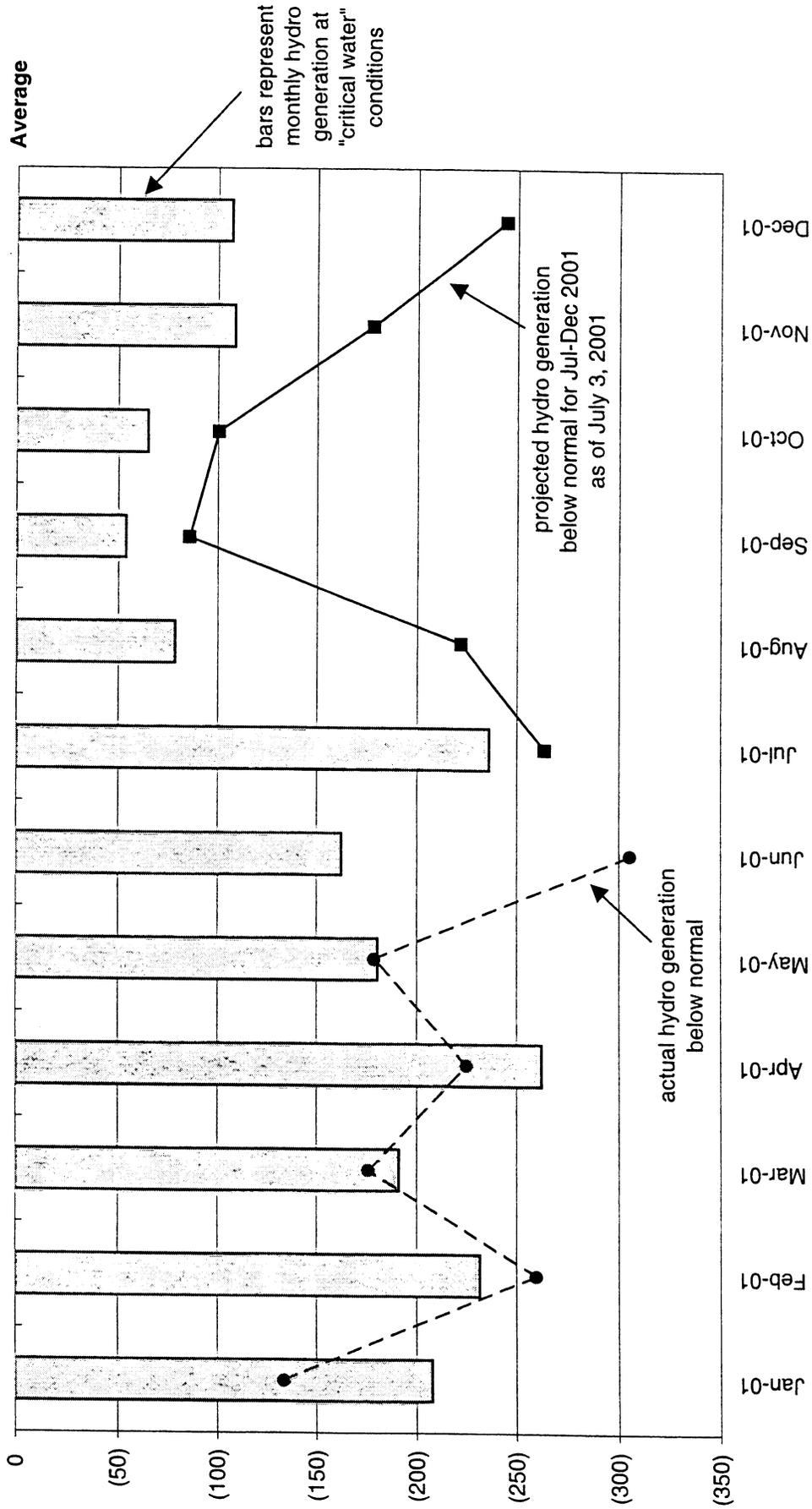
# AVISTA UTILITIES

## Projected Idaho Electric Deferral Balances (Using July 3 Forward Prices)

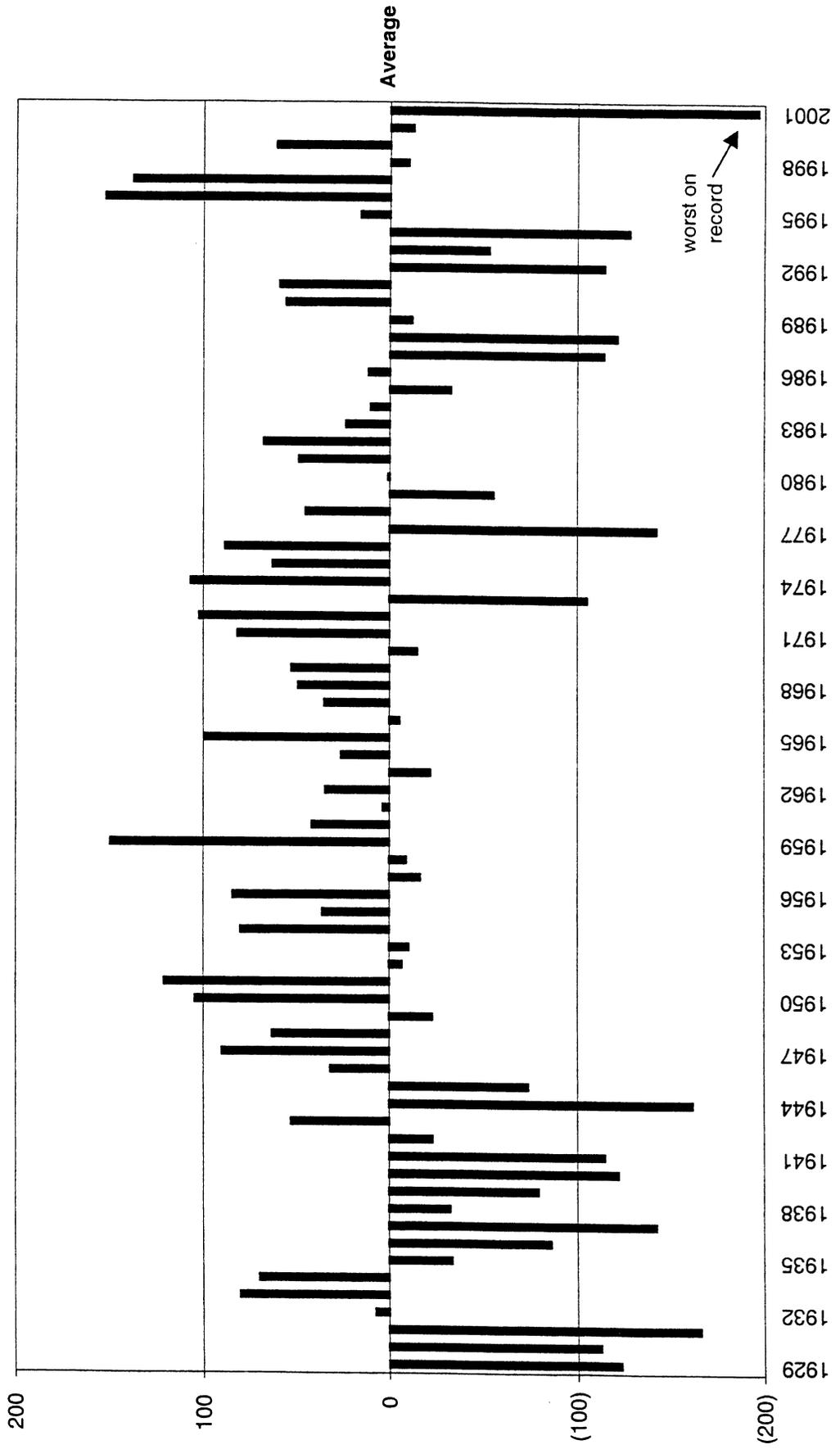


# AVISTA UTILITIES

2001 Avista System and Mid-Columbia Hydro Generation vs. "Critical Water"  
(aMW by Month)

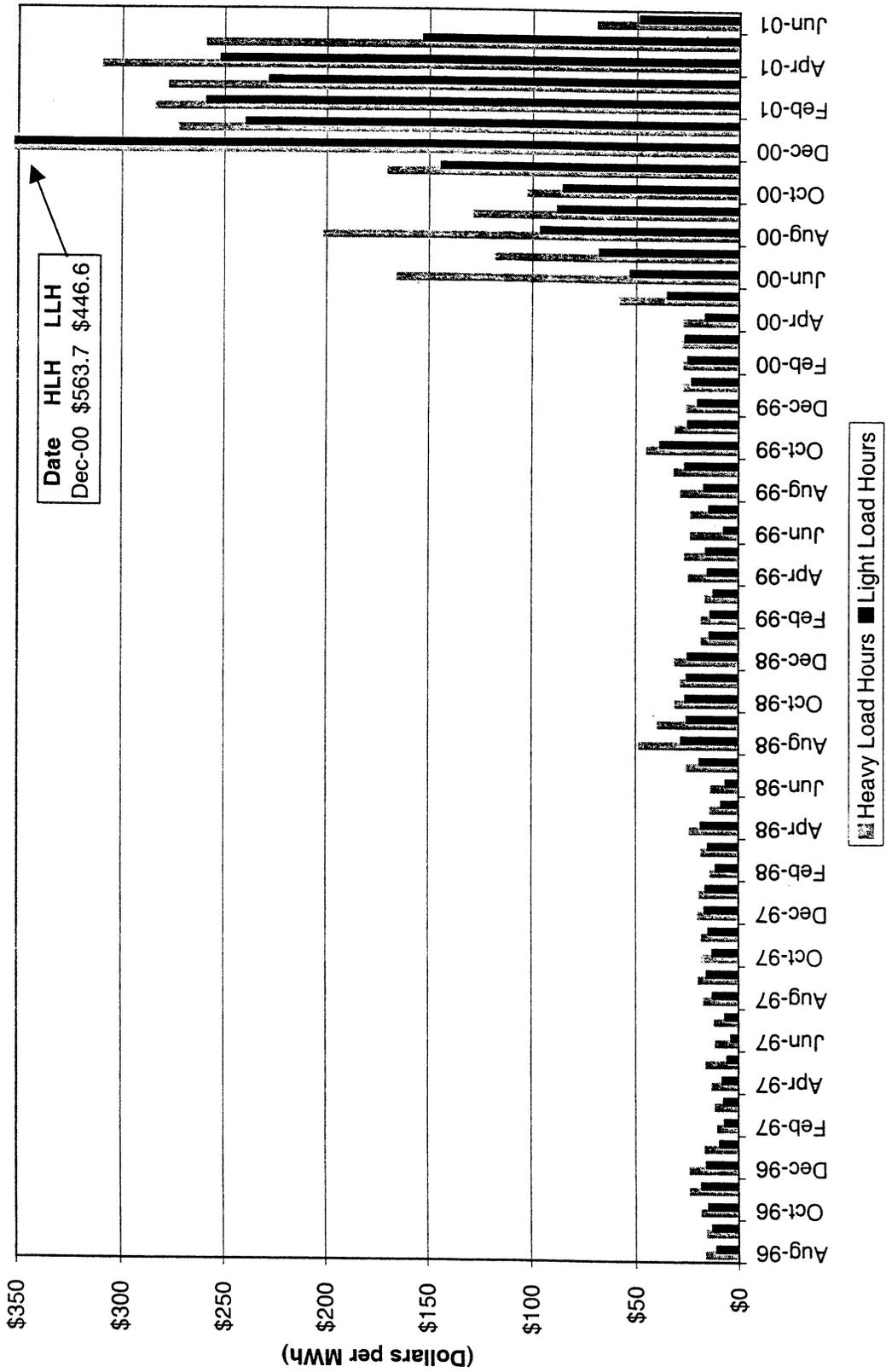


**AVISTA UTILITIES**  
**1929 - 2001 Avista System and Mid-Columbia Hydro Generation**  
 (aMW by Calendar Year)



# Mid-Columbia Firm Electricity Index

(as reported by Dow Jones & Company: August 1996-June 2001 monthly averages)



BEFORE THE  
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

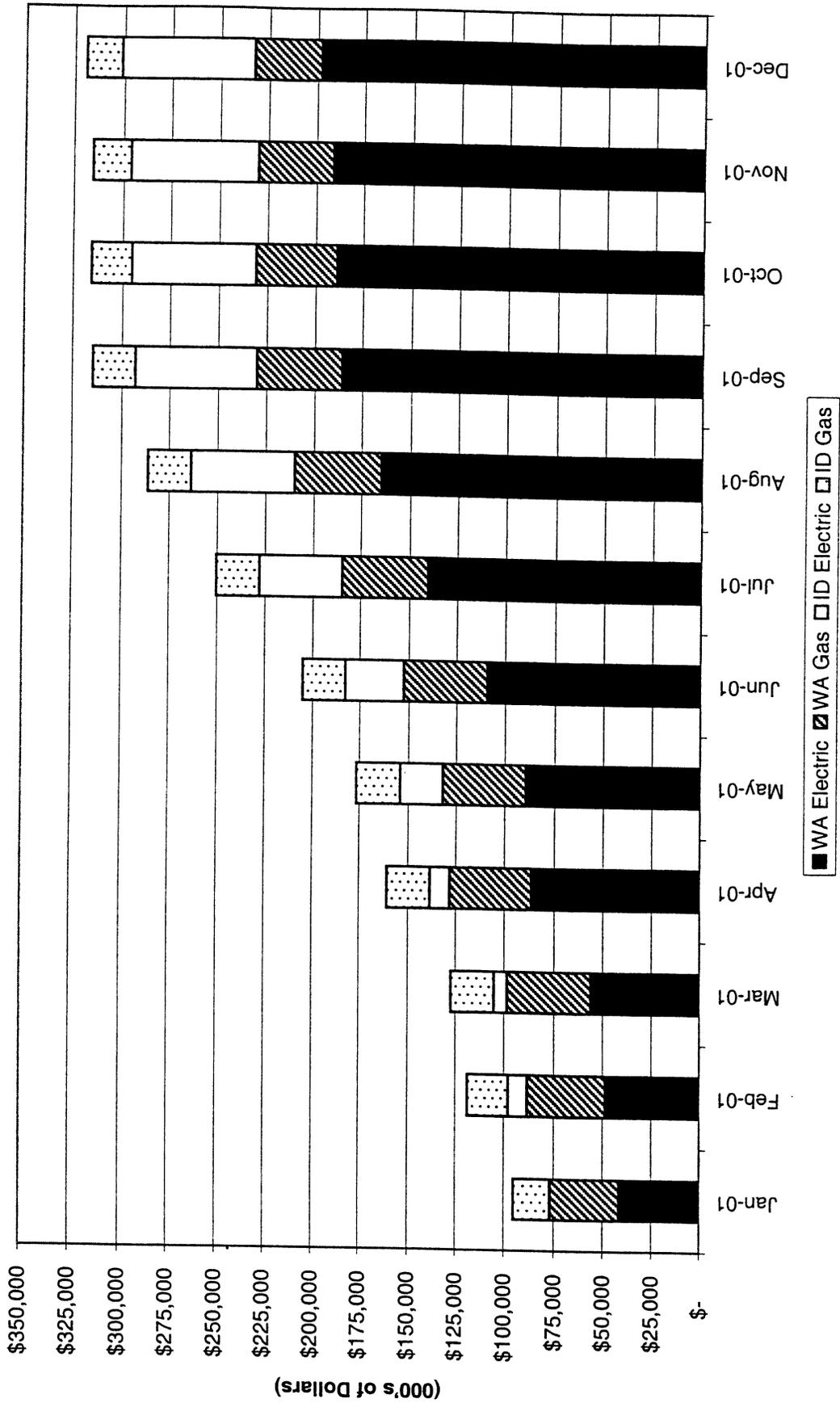
CASE NO. AVU-E-01-

ATTACHMENT NO. 2

# AVISTA UTILITIES

## 2001 Electric & Gas Deferral Balances

Actual Balances Through June 2001 and Estimates for July - December 2001



**Avista Corp**  
**Estimated Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio**

| Period<br>(A)       | Required<br>Ratio<br>(B) | Without Financings(1) and<br>Without Surcharge<br>Calculated<br>Ratio<br>(C) | Covenant<br>Status<br>(D) | With Financings and<br>Without Surcharge (2)<br>Calculated<br>Ratio<br>(E) | Covenant<br>Status<br>(F) | With Financings and<br>With Surcharge<br>Calculated<br>Ratio<br>(G) | Covenant<br>Status<br>(H) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Utility Only</b> |                          |  |                           |  |                           |   |                           |
| June 2001           | 1.25                     | 2.23   | COMPLY                    | 2.23   | COMPLY                    | 2.23  | COMPLY                    |
| Sept 2001           | 1.25                     | -1.39  | NOT MET                   | 2.90   | COMPLY                    | 3.29  | COMPLY                    |
| Dec 2001            | 1.25                     | -2.42  | NOT MET                   | 1.15   | NOT MET                   | 1.99  | COMPLY                    |
| Mar 2002            | 1.50                     | -2.13  | NOT MET                   | 2.15   | COMPLY                    | 3.78  | COMPLY                    |
| June 2002           | 2.00                     | -0.73  | NOT MET                   | 2.10   | COMPLY                    | 3.65  | COMPLY                    |
| Sept 2002           | 2.50                     | -0.20  | NOT MET                   | 2.79   | COMPLY                    | 4.70  | COMPLY                    |
| Dec 2002            | 2.50                     | 0.10   | NOT MET                   | 3.37   | COMPLY                    | 5.48  | COMPLY                    |
| <b>Consolidated</b> |                          |  |                           |  |                           |   |                           |
| June 2001           | 1.00                     | 1.53   | COMPLY                    | 1.53   | COMPLY                    | 1.53  | COMPLY                    |
| Sept 2001           | 1.00                     | -2.14  | NOT MET                   | 2.14   | COMPLY                    | 2.52  | COMPLY                    |
| Dec 2001            | 1.00                     | -2.91  | NOT MET                   | 0.62   | NOT MET                   | 1.47  | COMPLY                    |
| Mar 2002            | 1.50                     | -2.66  | NOT MET                   | 1.57   | COMPLY                    | 3.19  | COMPLY                    |
| June 2002           | 2.00                     | -0.55  | NOT MET                   | 2.30   | COMPLY                    | 3.84  | COMPLY                    |
| Sept 2002           | 2.25                     | 0.03   | NOT MET                   | 3.06   | COMPLY                    | 4.97  | COMPLY                    |
| Dec 2002            | 2.50                     | 0.37   | NOT MET                   | 3.69   | COMPLY                    | 5.78  | COMPLY                    |

(1) Coyote Springs II Credit Line and additional 2001 and 2002 Common Stock Issuances  
(2) For information purposes only as the stated financings are not likely to occur without a surcharge

Avista Corp

History of Senior Secured and Unsecured Credit Ratings  
As of December 31

| Line No. | Rating Outlook | Fitch/Duff & Phelps |               | Moody's       |               | Standard & Poor's |               |
|----------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|          |                | Secured (a)         | Unsecured (b) | Secured (C)   | Unsecured (d) | Secured (e)       | Unsecured (f) |
| 1        | 2001*          |                     |               |               |               |                   |               |
| 2        |                | BBB Stable          | BBB-          | Baa1 Negative | Baa2          | BBB+ Negative     | BBB           |
| 3        | 2000           | BBB+                |               | Baa1          | Baa2          | BBB+              | BBB           |
| 4        | 1999           | A-                  | BBB+          | A3            | Baa1          | BBB+              | BBB           |
| 5        | 1998           | A                   | A-            | A3            | Baa1          | A                 | A-            |
| 6        | 1997           | A                   | A-            | A3            | Baa1          | A                 | A-            |
| 7        | 1996           | A                   | A-            | A3            | Baa1          | A                 | A-            |

\* As of July 17, 2001

**Avista Corp**

**Financial Indicators  
1999-2002**

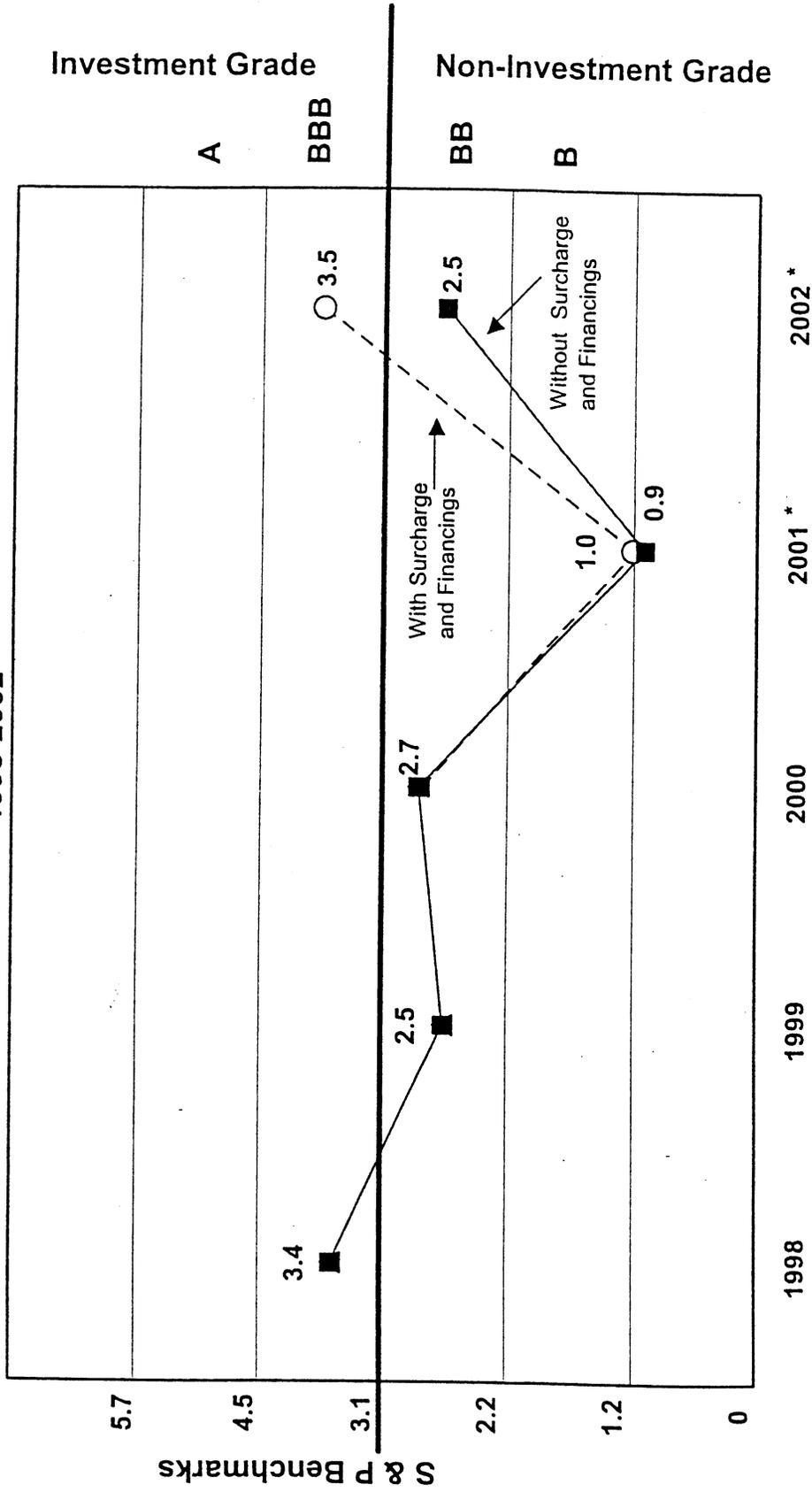
| Line No.                        | Actual                    |       |       | Projected                       |       |                | Investment Grade |       | Non-Investment Grade |            |            |            |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                 | 1998                      | 1999  | 2000  | Without Financings or Surcharge |       | With Surcharge | A                | BBB   | BB                   | B          |            |            |
|                                 | (a)                       | (b)   | (c)   | 2001                            | 2002  | 2001           | (h)              | (i)   | (j)                  | (k)        |            |            |
| Internal Funds From Operations: |                           |       |       |                                 |       |                |                  |       |                      |            |            |            |
| 1                               | Interest Coverage         | 3.4x  | 2.5x  | 2.7x                            | 0.9x  | 2.5x           | 1.0x             | 3.5x  | 4.5 - 5.7x           | 3.1 - 4.5x | 2.2 - 3.1x | 1.2 - 2.2x |
| Internal Funds from Operations: |                           |       |       |                                 |       |                |                  |       |                      |            |            |            |
| 2                               | As a % of Debt            | 31.0% | 16.6% | 19.6%                           | 6.7%  | 22.6%          | 8.6%             | 31.3% | 31 - 39%             | 22 - 31%   | 16 - 22%   | 8 - 16%    |
| Capitalization Ratios:          |                           |       |       |                                 |       |                |                  |       |                      |            |            |            |
| 3                               | Debt                      | 43.2% | 54.0% | 51.9%                           | 59.8% | 57.7%          | 55.6%            | 50.4% | 39 - 46%             | 46 - 54%   | 54 - 61%   | 61 - 69%   |
| 4                               | Preferred Stock           | 26.1  | 23.4  | 7.6                             | 6.3   | 6.3            | 6.5              | 6.3   |                      |            |            |            |
| 5                               | Common Equity             | 30.7  | 22.6  | 40.5                            | 33.9  | 36.0           | 37.9             | 43.3  |                      |            |            |            |
| Pretax Interest Coverages:      |                           |       |       |                                 |       |                |                  |       |                      |            |            |            |
| 6                               | Including AFUDC and AFUCE | 2.72x | 1.97x | 2.29x                           | 1.59x | 1.78x          | 1.67x            | 2.09x | 4.0 - 5.2x           | 2.6 - 4.0x | 1.6 - 2.6x | 0.7 - 1.6x |
| 7                               | Excluding AFUDC and AFUCE | 2.67x | 1.93x | 2.26x                           | 1.49x | 1.71x          | 1.57x            | 2.01x |                      |            |            |            |

\*Benchmarks from Standard & Poor's for Business Position "6" (Avista's current Business Position).

Boxed area represents where Avista would be by the end of 2002 with a surcharge

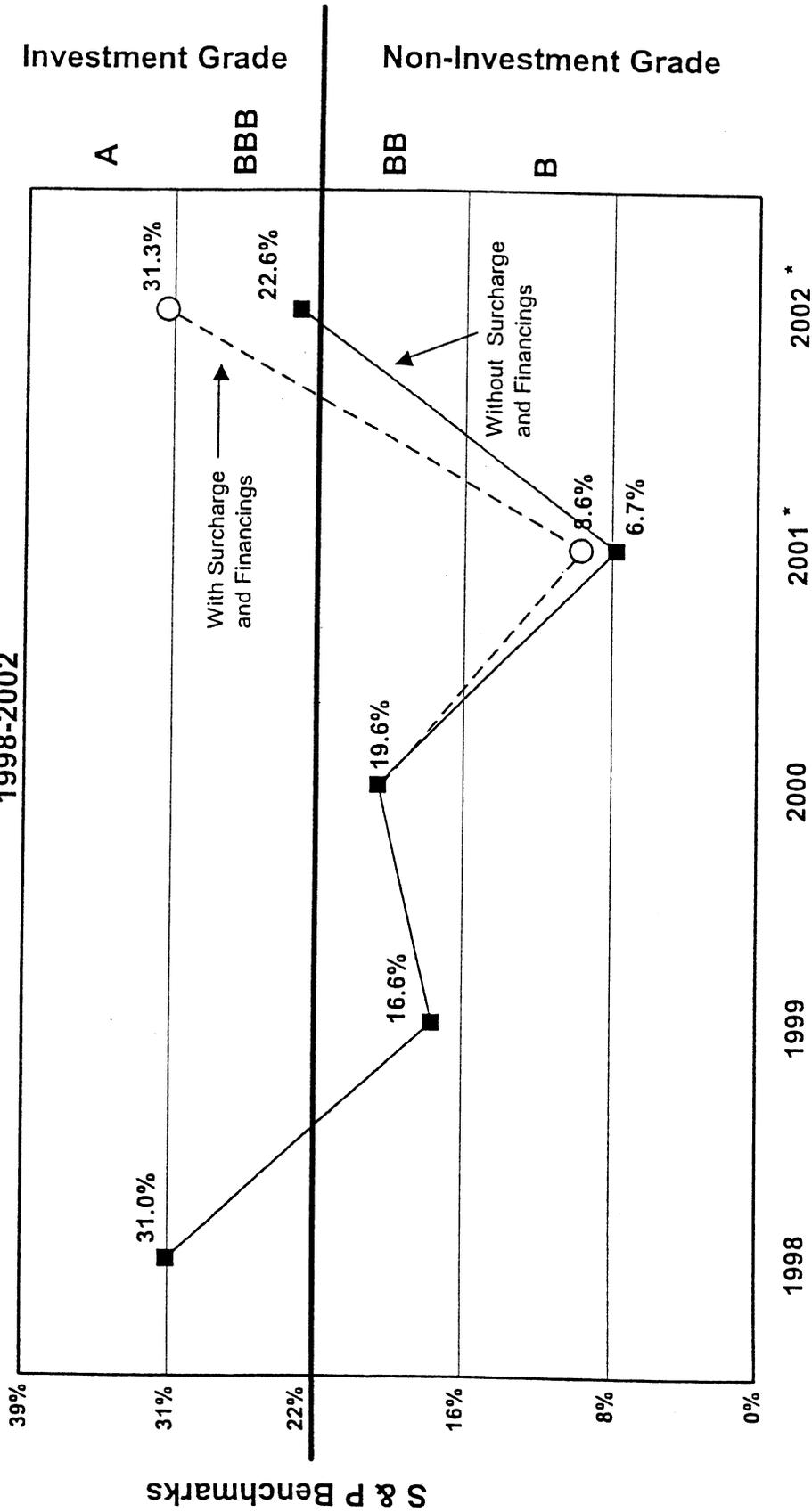
Bold area represents where Avista would be by the end of 2001 without a surcharge. Note that two of the financial indicators would be BELOW "B" rating range.

**Internal Funds From Operations:  
Interest Coverage  
1998-2002**



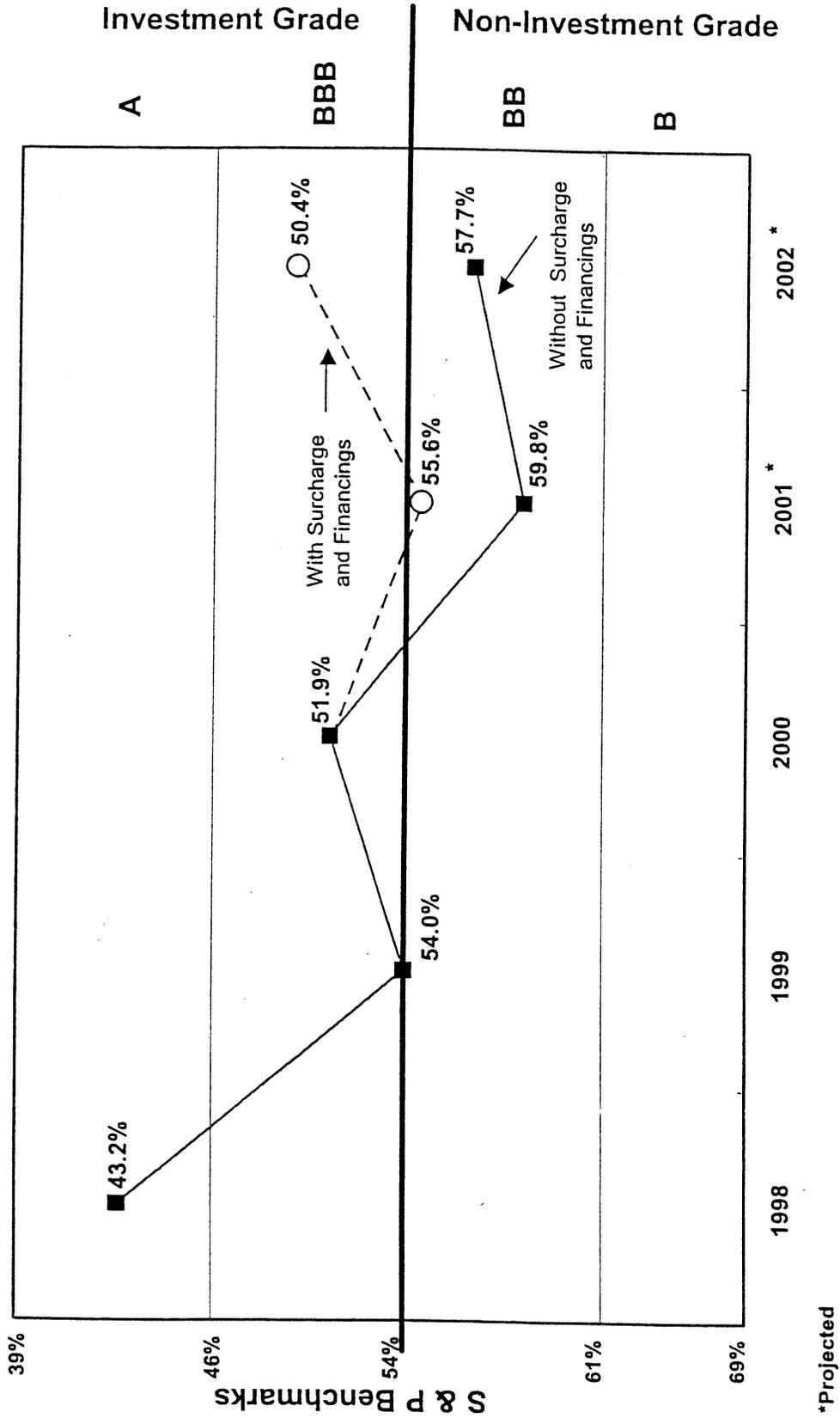
\*Projected

**Internal Funds From Operations:  
As a % of Debt  
1998-2002**



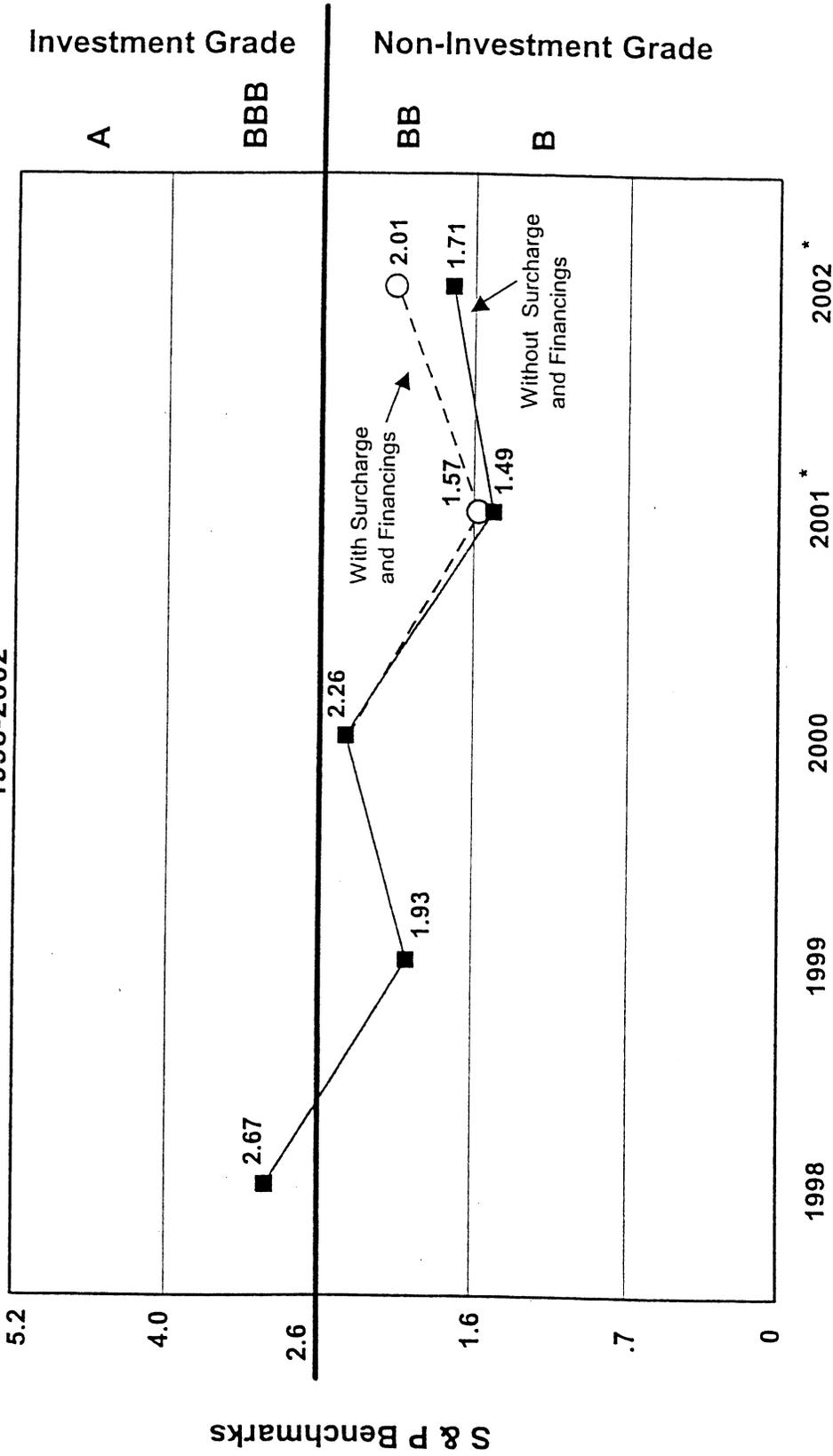
\*Projected

# Debt Capitalization Ratio 1998 - 2002



\*Projected

Pretax Interest Coverages:  
Excluding AFUDC and AFUCE  
1998-2002



\*Projected

BEFORE THE  
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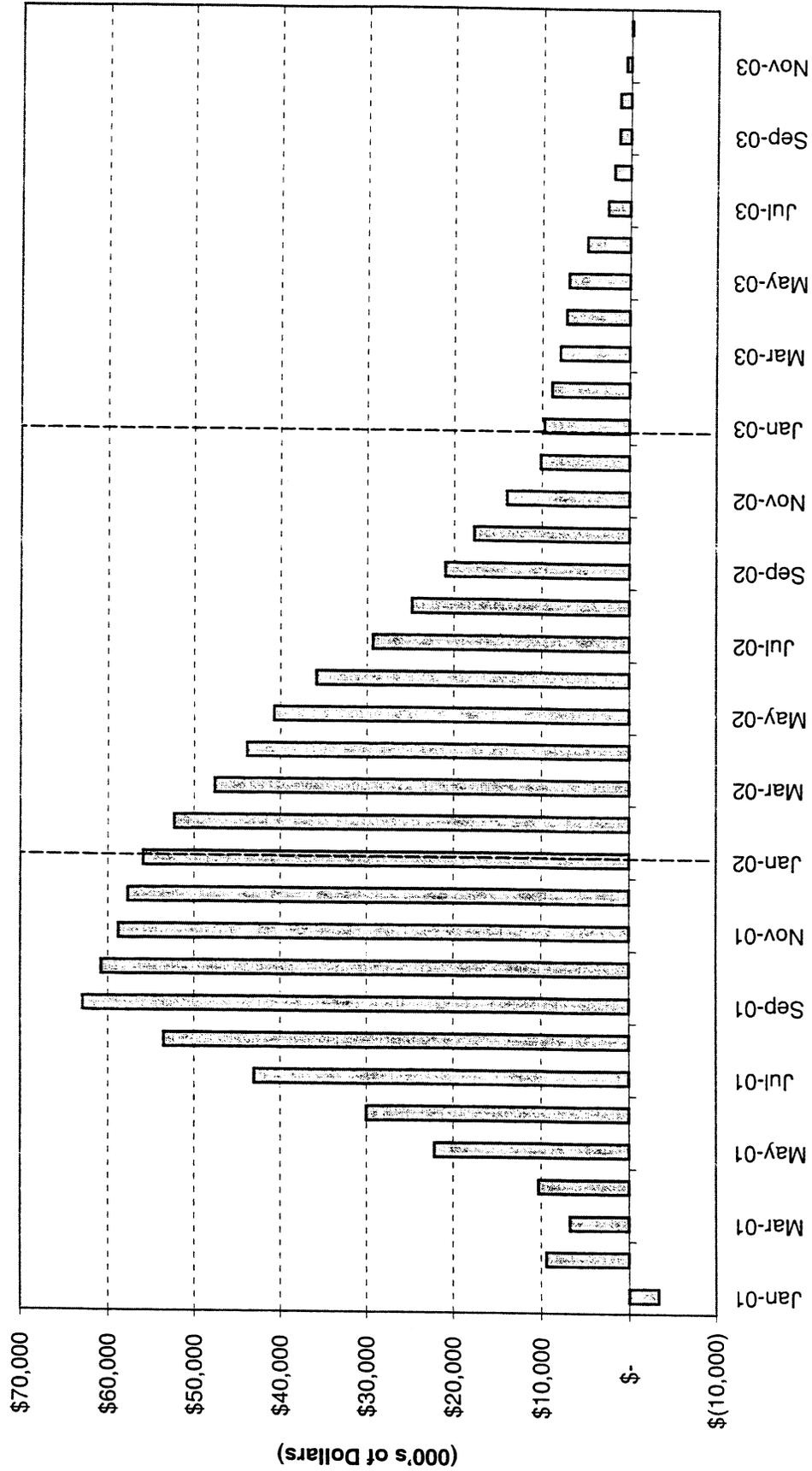
ATTACHMENT NO. 3

# AVISTA UTILITIES

## Projected Idaho Electric Deferral Balances

Based on July 3 Forward Prices

Utilizing Surcharge of 19.4% (10/01 - 12/03) and 15 Month PGE Amortization



**AVISTA CORP.  
SURCHARGE REVENUE REQUIRMENT CALCULATION  
IDAHO JURISDICTION**

(1) Annual State Surcharges Amounts before Conversion Factor Analysis \$21,901,500

GROSS UP CALCULATION FOR EQUITY RETURN INCLUDED IN DEFERRAL

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total Equity Deferrals for Owned Capital Projects                     | \$6,108,901 |
| Recovery Period in Months   | 27          |
| Monthly Net of Tax Recovery   | 226,256     |
| Annualized Net of Tax Recovery  | 2,715,067   |
| Conversion Factor per 12/2000 CBR Reports                             | 0.638934    |
| Annualized Gross Revenue Req  | 4,249,370   |
| (2) Incremental Revenue for Equity Return Deferral Surcharge Gross Up | 1,534,303   |

GROSS UP CALCULATION FOR MISC REVENUE RELATED EXPENSES

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Annual State Surcharges before Conversion                                 | 21,901,500   |
| Annualized Equity Return Recovery Component                               | 2,715,067    |
| Annual State Surcharges Net of Equity Return Recovery                     | 19,186,433   |
| Revenue Related Expense Conversion Factor per 12/2000 CBR Reports         | 0.99316      |
| Annualized Gross Revenue Req for non-Equity Deferral Surcharge            | 19,318,572   |
| (3) Incremental Revenue for non-Equity Return Deferral Surcharge Gross Up | 132,139      |
| (4) Total Surcharge Revenue Requirements                                  | \$23,567,942 |
| (4) = (1) + (2) + (3)   |              |

Normalized General Business Revenues \$121,675,000

Overall General Business Percentage Increase 19.4%

(a) Surcharge amount necessary to eliminate deferral balance by December 31, 2003

**Avista Corp.**  
**Proposed Schedule 66 PCA Surcharge Rates by Schedule**  
**State of Idaho**  
**Based on 2000 Pro Forma Revenue & Oct. '01 - Sept. '02 Forecast kwhs**

| <u>Schedule</u>               | <u>2000 Revenue</u> | <u>Annual Prop. Surcharge</u> | <u>% Increase</u> | <u>Annual Surcharge Revenue</u> | <u>10/01-9/02 Forecast mwks</u> | <u>Total Surcharge Rate/kwh</u> | <u>Less: Exist. Surcharge Rate/kwh</u> | <u>Incremental Surcharge Rate/kwh</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1                             | \$ 52,818           |                               | 19.4%             | \$ 10,231                       | 1,011,762                       | (1)                             | (1)                                    | (1)                                   |
| 11                            | \$ 16,899           |                               | 19.4%             | \$ 3,273                        | 235,397                         | \$ 0.01391                      | \$ 0.00305                             | \$ 0.01086                            |
| 21                            | \$ 36,831           |                               | 19.4%             | \$ 7,134                        | 705,457                         | \$ 0.01011                      | \$ 0.00223                             | \$ 0.00788                            |
| 25                            | \$ 10,690           |                               | 19.4%             | \$ 2,071                        | 340,912                         | \$ 0.00607                      | \$ 0.00170                             | \$ 0.00437                            |
| 31                            | \$ 2,594            |                               | 19.4%             | \$ 502                          | 56,563                          | \$ 0.00888                      | \$ 0.00181                             | \$ 0.00707                            |
| 41-49                         | \$ 1,842            |                               | 19.4%             | \$ 357                          |                                 |                                 | 4.8%                                   |                                       |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$ 121,674</b>   | <b>\$ 23,568</b>              | <b>19.4%</b>      | <b>\$ 23,568</b>                |                                 | <b>\$ 23,568</b>                | <b>\$ 5,708</b>                        | <b>\$ 17,860</b>                      |
| <b>Incremental % Increase</b> |                     |                               |                   |                                 |                                 |                                 |  | <b>14.7%</b>                          |

**(1) Proposed Surcharge for Residential Schedule 1 Rates - Uniform %**

|         | <u>Rate/kwh</u> | <u>Forecast kwhs by Block</u> | <u>Forecast Rev. by Block</u> | <u>Annual Surcharge</u> | <u>% Increase by Block</u> | <u>Surcharge by Block</u> | <u>Less: Exist. Surcharge Rate/kwh</u> | <u>Incremental Surcharge by Block</u> |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Block 1 | \$ 0.04568      | 534,097                       | \$ 24,398                     |                         |                            | \$ 0.00939                | \$ 0.00245                             | \$ 0.00694                            |
| Block 2 | \$ 0.05316      | 477,665                       | \$ 25,393                     |                         |                            | \$ 0.01092                | \$ 0.00245                             | \$ 0.00847                            |
|         |                 | 1,011,762                     | \$ 49,790                     | 10,231                  | 20.5%                      |                           |  |                                       |